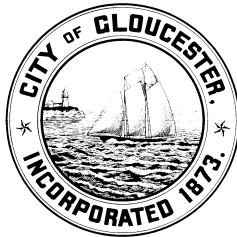


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CITY OF GLOUCESTER
HARBOR PLANNING

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Members:

Paul Vitale (Fisheries)
Ralph Pino (Waterways Board)
Greg Verga (City Council)
Rick Noonan (Planning Board)
Paul McGeary

Jeffrey Amero
Ann Molloy
Marcy Pregent
Ron Schrank (Absent)
Alternates: Mike Potter & Steve Cefalo

Also in attendance: Sarah Garcia, Kathryn Glenn, Jim Caulkett, Cate Banks.

2013 Harbor Plan

January 28, 2013
2 State Fish Pier
7 - 9 pm

Welcome, Call to Order

Rick Noonan, Chair

Chairman, Rick Noonan, called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. He asked if he could discuss the last meeting's minutes first and then move on to the presentations. The board was in favor of that.

Approval of Minutes from Dec. 17, 2012

There were a few clarifications for the minutes, including a spelling mistake. Mr. McGeary had a question on page 4 and what type of area was meant by 3.7% shoreline area. (I cannot find a note about the answer)

Mr. Noonan accepts motion to pass the meeting minutes from December 17, 2012 and the motion was seconded with a unanimous board. Ms. Pregent arrived at 7:07pm just after minutes were approved.

Paul Vitale (Fisheries) Ralph Pino (Waterways Board) Greg Verga (City Council) Rick Noonan (Planning Bd) Paul McGeary Jeffrey Amero Ann Molloy Marcy Pregent Ron Schrank

Alternates: Mike Potter Steve Cefalo

Fisheries Commission

A presentation of role and priorities of the Commission

By David Bergeron, Chair

Mr. Bergeron thanked the committee for having him. He mentioned that Mr. Vitale will be the official liaison from the Fisheries Commission. In 1954, the Fisheries Commission was created and advises the city on all things related to Gloucester fisheries and the fishing industry. The commission is strictly an advisory board, which is made up of nine members. Five of the members are active fishermen and four are non-fishermen. The board can hold up to 13 board members but they have not filled the extra vacancies at this time. Mr. Bergeron noted that the commission was inactive from the early 2000s until June of 2011, when Mr. Bergeron was put in charge of the Fisheries Commission. He also noted that Mr. Vitale and Mr. Verga are Fisheries Commission liaisons for the Harbor Plan Board. Mr. Bergeron commented that the fishing industry finds the DPA very important and it needs to be protected. The Harbor Plan needs to show how things will impact the fishing community so that the Fisheries Commission can provide input.

Ms. Malloy and Mr. Vitale enter the room and take their seats at the table at 7:13pm.

Mr. Bergeron continued to note that the Fisheries Commission have 2 projects that they are working on. The first is with the UMASS Boston Urban Harbors Institute, which with seaport bond funding, is conducting a census with all commercial fishing vessels to assess the needs of those vessels. The commission wants to develop a long term plan that meets the needs of those vessels. At this time, 240 boats have been surveyed and Mr. Bergeron noted that a census of this size has never been done before. He feels that this census is very important and may help show the needs of the fishing community, such as dockage needs.

Mr. Potter stated that he found an article which mentioned that 70 boats were surveyed. Mr. Bergeron indicated that that number was only representing groundfish vessels. The 240 number represents all fishing vessels that call Gloucester their home port. Mr. Vitale stated that there are 70 active groundfish vessels. Mr. Bergeron also said that there are some boats that do business in Gloucester but it is not their home port. Mr. Bergeron would like to see if there are ways to have these vessels change their home port to Gloucester.

Mr. Pino asked if the 240 boat number includes striper bass boats. Mr. Bergeron indicated that it is anyone with a commercial license.

Ms. Garcia stated that there are 120 transient boats that do not call Gloucester their home port.

Mr. Cefalo asked how the 240 vessel number compares to the 1970s and the glory days. Mr. Vitale indicated that there used to be over 400 commercial fishing vessels. Mr. Cefalo said that the transient boats could be Maine groundfish boats. Mr. Vitale noted that a Maine groundfish boat cannot land lobsters in Maine, so they will come to Gloucester to unload the lobsters and resupply.

Mr. Potter asked who assigns the slip spaces to the Maine boats. Mr. Vitale responded that each boat must ask permission from owners to use docking space. Ms. Garcia noted that the city has several slips that are managed by the Waterways Board. Ms. Malloy asked if there is a waiting list to tie up and how many transient boats have need for this. Mr. Bergeron said that the Fisheries Commission does not have a waiting list.

Mr. Vitale- survey of transient boats, what their needs are
Noonan, important to establish method to get transient (could not record everything that was said)

Ms. Pregent added that people should be able to list where there is available dockage, just like rental properties and homes for sale.

Ms. Garcia noted that there is an economic development plan which has a database for commercial property. She thought about asking Endicott College graduate students to look into making the database better and improve it to make it easier to use.

Mr. Cefalo asked when Mr. Bergeron would have the report. Mr. Bergeron indicated that the report by UMASS Boston Urban Harbors Institute would be out in the next few months.

Mr. Bergeron indicated that the second project that the Fisheries Commission began in the fall and that is to look at any opportunity to diversify the fishing community. MassDevelopment, the state agency that runs the State Fish Pier, is looking for avenues that provide additional economic growth. Members of the processor, fishermen, and fisheries services community are being interviewed. Mr. Bergeron indicated that Gloucester did not always fish groundfish and that fishing vessels need to be able to change easily from one fishery to another. He noted that redfish and dogfish are possible suggestions. He also noted the presentation made by Jan Schleichtman on a live fish market, at the last Fisheries Commission meeting. Mr. Bergeron felt that the concept could be beneficial to the processing community in Gloucester. Another suggestion was to combine the shrimp fishery with the lobster one and have a processing facility for it.

Mr. Vitale and Mr. Potter started discussing the NOAA fisheries studies, the flaws with the fisheries models being used, and the issues surrounding NOAA. Mr. Vitale noted that no

one in the fishing community can make a business plan because of the constantly changing NOAA regulations.

Mr. Bergeron stated that Congress asked the National Academy of Science to see if the Magnuson Stevens Act is up to date. He hoped that the Academy would look into how to modify things and that the Northeast groundfishery could be a case study.

Mr. Bergeron said that the ocean ecosystem is generating economic opportunity but the Gloucester community cannot do anything with it due to regulations. He said because of those regulations, Gloucester keeps experiencing a boom and bust scenario. Mr. Bergeron wants to look into new technologies, such as biofuels from cultivating jellies or algae. He also said that there are efforts in place to look at the feasibility of offshore oyster cultivation and have these sites be located away from current fishing grounds. He noted that there is a big market for oysters. Mr. Bergeron thinks that the big picture needs to be looked at instead of one specific avenue. He noted that some of these ideas, such as the live fish market will mix nicely with tourism and bring more economic growth to the area. Mr. Bergeron would also like to get staff who would look into the fine details of each possible strategy. Liaisons, like Mr. Vitale, are necessary for intercommission communication.

Mr. Cefalo inquired about the live fish market concept. Mr. Bergeron explained the live market concept to the group.

Mr. Noonan would like Mr. Bergeron to report back with updates when he has them.

Mr. Noonan would like a list for dockage opportunities and thinks it is important to collect all related data, which Ms. Malloy will look into.

Mr. Noonan thanked Mr. Bergeron for his presentation.

Mr. McGeary asked what the ratio is for private to city dockage. A member of the audience stated it was 80/20. (possibly said by Cate Banks)

Waterways Board

*A presentation of the role and priorities of the Board
By Tony Gross, Chair*

Chairman, Tony Gross, of Waterways Board gave a presentation on what the Waterways Board does for the city of Gloucester. He stated that there are nine members on the board with three individuals from the fisheries community, two from economic development, two recreational boaters, and two members at large. Each board member has a 3 year term and the terms are staggered so that at least three members are reappointed each year. Each appointment begins on February 15th. The purpose of the Waterways Board is to provide management of the harbor master office, public and city owned waterfront properties, and waterways. The board helps promote harbor plans and that Mr. Pino is the liaison between

the Waterways Board and the Harbor Plan Committee. Mr. Gross went on to say that the board completed a full rules and regulations overview on March 1st 2012.

Mr. Noonan asked if the policies were adopted moving forward. Mr. Gross said that that was the case.

Mr. Gross continued by stating that the board does not control private property but does control city moorings, city owned landings, floats, and launch ramps, among others. Mr. Gross noted that the board is allowed to charge fees and collect fines but needs the city council to set the values for those monetary collections. He also mentioned that stabilization accounts have been created for two city owned marinas, St. Peter's and Harbor Cove. He indicated that the board oversees the Harbormaster office and all related staffing and training events. They also help the Harbormaster enforce rules and review all waterfront projects. The Waterways Board also acts as the liason with Army Corps of Engineers, Coastal Zone Management, and other state agencies.

Mr. Noonan, federal harbor lines, I4C2, added 42 ft.

Mr. Gross noted that in 2004 harbor lines were redrawn and Harbormaster Caulkett indicated it mirrors the federal channel.

Mr. Gross brought up new Waterways Board projects:

At Cripple Cove 20 dingy spots were created for permittees.

Southeast harbor mooring field was created, but is not well utilized. The site is located on the other side of Ten Pound Island by Niles Beach.

Ms. Pregent asked if there are any more dredging projects. Mr. Gross indicated that there is a lot of dredging that they want to do but it is hard to get those projects underway from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Ms. Garcia mentioned a dredging project for the North channel of inner harbor that the Department of Conservation and Recreation is managing. This cannot be completed until National Grid can clean up a nearby contamination site.

Mr. Gross stated that the Waterways Board wants to encourage more signage for transient boaters. He also mentioned that the board works with all safety agencies and have budgeted to increase staff for regular patrols on the Annisquam River due to excessive speeding.

Mr. Gross brought up the National Grid contamination site which is located by the Harbormaster office, Solomon Jacob Park, and the Coast Guard Station. The area is contaminated with NAPHTA, a fuel product from a gassification plant that used to be in the

area. Mr. Gross indicated that the board will work with National Grid during the process and will also obtain permits to add floats and dockage by the Harbormaster office for transient boaters, such as a four hour tie up. This dockage project would occur once the clean up is complete, which should take about three years to complete but has not started yet. He also mentioned that the Heritage Center Pier may have to be taken down during the clean up process. The National Grid project has an estimated cost of \$1.2 million.

Ms. Pregent asked if this clean up poses any danger to humans. Mr. Gross replied that the only threat would be to marine life. Harbormaster Caulkett explained to the board and audience the history of the gassification plant and how National Grid got involved with the clean up.

Mr. Gross stated that he wants showers and bathrooms installed on lower level of the Harbormaster office building for transient boater to use. He added that this would be a feature that would help draw transient boaters to Gloucester Harbor.

Mr. Gross would like to see the float system in place for recreational and transient boats to use. The float system will be on pilons not anchors.

Mr. Gross would also like to create a launch service for 28 transient moorings, which have an average 25% occupancy. These moorings are fully occupied for Fiesta and Schooner Festival. He believes that the launch service can increase occupancy by 50%. Of the 28 transient moorings, some used more than others due to their locations and accessibility.

Mr. Noonan asked how much information is collected for transient boaters at the Harbormaster office. Mr. Caulkett said that the transient boaters fill out the forms and follow protocol but no additional information is taken.

Mr. Gross stated he would talk to the Chamber of Commerce about creating incentives to draw transient boaters to the harbor.

Mr. Gross explained that the board would like to create a floating marina in front of the state fish pier. He noted that it would be a challenge due to size but would like town owned structure to be 450 feet long with 22 slips inside it.

Mr. Gross would like to increase mooring compliance. A vessel must sit on a mooring for a 30 day period of time to own it. That time period was 60 days but they altered it to make things easier for vessel owners. He mentioned that mooring permits are not being renewed because the Harbormaster is paying more attention.

Mr. Gross stated that there should be better communication for the Gloucester boating community, such as an improved website for the Waterways Board and an e-mail list to quickly relay pertinent information.

Mr. Gross is also going to look into better methods for boaters to pay for fees and violations. As of now, credit cards are not accepted because the credit card companies don't feel there is enough transactions for the boating community.

Mr. Gross mentioned finding space for large yachts. Mr. Potter asked if I4C2 could be a test site for large yachts and have them dock european style. Mr. Caulkett stated that a recreational marina cannot be created in a DPA.

Mr. Gross continued by saying the biggest challenge they face is that the city owns very little waterfront property. There are only a handful of properties on the waterfront that the city owns, such as I4C2 and Cripple Cove. There are large parcels of waterfront property that do not utilize their docks, such as Gortons and Building Center. He wanted to know if the Harbor Planning Board can look into having the DPA create a use it or lose it regulation for waterfront properties who do not use their docks.

Ms. Garcia stated that the frozen fish industry is a part of the fishing community of Gloucester and that the freezers on the waterfront are highly desirable since not all ports have them. A lot of the frozen fish is trucked in and not brought in by boat, so the freezer buildings are not actively using their docks. She noted that as the freezers get older, upgrades will have to be made and that is when the city can inquire about the unused docks at the freezer sites. Ms. Garcia further commented that the docks must be controlled by each respective land owner, such as Gortons due to homeland security risks. If there is activity happening on the docks that is not related to the dock owner's business, it is a liability.

Mr. Gross thanked the board for their time and if there are any questions, he could be contacted. Mr. Noonan and the board thanked Mr. Gross for his time.

DPA Boundary Review

*A follow-up to the conversation with Kathryn Glenn, CZM
By Sarah Garcia, Harbor Planning Director*

Ms. Garcia is trying on multiple fronts to gather information that informs the harbor planning discussion, such as the dockage and the processing opportunities studies. The committee's last conversation with Ms. Glenn discussed a DPA boundary review. Ms. Garcia would like to use the expertise of the state to look at the DPA and get a review of the entire harbor, which would help make informed decisions about upcoming projects.

Ms. Glenn stated that once CZM does a boundary review, the decisions CZM makes are final and another review cannot happen for a minimum of 5 years.

Mr. Cefalo mentioned that Chelsea recently had a boundary review and thought that it could be a case study for Gloucester to look at.

Mr. Noonan would like a portion of the next meeting to go over the details of a boundary review. Ms. Glenn and Mr. Cefalo both have information on the Chelsea boundary review project and will pass it along to Ms. Garcia.

Mr. Potter would like Ms. Glenn to give another presentation about boundaries to help better inform the board.

Ms. Garcia stated that the city has been seeking more working uses for the harbor as opposed to residential. She noted that there has never been a wide-spread community desire to have condominiums on the waterfront. She pointed out the importance of Gloucester as the only functional port north of Boston.

Mr. Noonan asked that an agenda item for the next meeting be on boundary review.

Adjournment

Asked for motion to adjourn, moved by Mr. McGeary and seconded by Mr. Cefalo. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.